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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

July 31, 2017

Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 10804  
Washington, DC 20260-3500

Dear Postmaster General:

I am following up on my previous letter of June 20, 2017, opposing the sudden closure of the Rio Nido Post Office. The USPS should give serious consideration to the residents' appeal (PRC Docket No. A2017-2), and explore options more thoroughly—with input from the local community—to keep it open.

Rio Nido is a tight-knit community in western Sonoma County with approximately 522 households representing more than 1000 residents, nearly all of whom do not have street service and rely on this Post Office for postal services. It is their community hub and an important unique cultural center. Many Rio Nido families have contacted my office to express their strong support for continued operation of the Post Office, and with concerns about lack of transportation to reach the Guerneville Post Office.

As a reason for the closure, USPS is citing the need to pursue financial prudence in this matter to ensure long term sustainability. According to the residents, they are ready to work with USPS to find an economical solution for managing the Post Office. The residents have been in touch with multiple potential contractors, have talked to the Russian River Fire Department about extending the land lease, and have communicated with the previous contractor about the operation of the facility.

While I support the Postal Service's focus on fiscal prudence, the residents have questions surrounding the financial analysis used to determine the need for closure. For example, the residents say they were told the contract was for \$15,000, but in its response to my letter, USPS refers to a \$25,000 contract. The residents also want to understand why if some nearby residents qualify for rural home delivery, they do not receive the same home delivery service as their neighbors, why they could not have cluster box service, or have continued post office box service at Rio Nido since the postal carriers are traveling past the facility anyway. These questions should be answered promptly and without the community needing to send you an official request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I strongly urge you to explore opportunities to work in partnership with the local community to allow the Rio Nido Post Office to re-open. Please keep in mind my continuing offer of assistance in assembling a small group of representatives from the leadership of the Friends of Rio Nido Board to explore ways to work with the USPS to keep the Rio Nido Post Office in operation. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress

cc: Postal Regulatory Commission

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